

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KIGALI 01528 170550Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 W

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R 160822Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5469

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AF ONLY

FOR AF/E BAKER FROM GRIBBIN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, UG, ASEC

SUBJECT: TRANSIT PROCEDURES AT ENTEBBE

1. GRIBBIN TRANSITED ENTEBBE MORNING 14 NOV VIA SN 495. ALL CALM. SABENA ORIGINALLY REQUESTED THAT TRANSIT PASSENGERS REMAIN ON BOARD AIRCRAFT. HOWEVER, AS STOP PROLONGED TO TWO HOURS DUE TO SLOW OFF-LOADING CARGO, ABOUT DOZEN PASSENGERS PROCEEDED TO TRANSIT LOUNGE.

2. ONLY THREE ARMED SECURITY PERSONNEL IN VIEW DURING ENTIRE PERIOD STROLLING CASUALLY AROUND.

3. UGANDAN AIRWAYS FLEET - TWO 707'S, 4 FIVE TO SIX PASSENGER LIGHT PLANES, ONE HELICOPTER, ONE C-130, AND ONE 16 PASSENGER AIRCRAFT ON TARMAC. LATTER THREE LEFT DURING STOPOVER. NO ARRIVALS.

4. CARGO OFF-LOADING EQUIPMENT, I.E. ELEVATOR, PALLETS, FORK LIFT, ETC. AND PERSONNEL WOEFULLY INADEQUATE TO TASK OF DISCHARGING 707 COMBINATION FREIGHTER/PASSENGER AIRCRAFT. SABENA CREW REPORTS LENGTHY OFF-LOADING TIME ROUTE FOR ENTEBBE.

5. ELEVEN PASSENGERS DISEMBARKED. THREE UGANDANS, ASSORTED

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EUROPEAN/AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN, GERMAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WIFE WITH SMALL CHILD.

6. COMMENT: SABENA CLEARLY AWARE OF TRANSIT PASSENGER SENSITIVITY CONCERNING UGANDA AND PROVIDE ASSURANCE THAT STOP ALWAYS A NORMAL ONE. UGANDA GROUND CREW SUPERVISOR ALSO APPEARS SENSITIVE TO ISSUE AND IS CALMLY REASSURING. SEE NO SECURITY REASONS WHY

TRAVELERS, OFFICIAL OR OTHERWISE, SHOULD AVOID FLIGHTS THAT
TRANSIT ENTEBBE.
CRIGLER

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